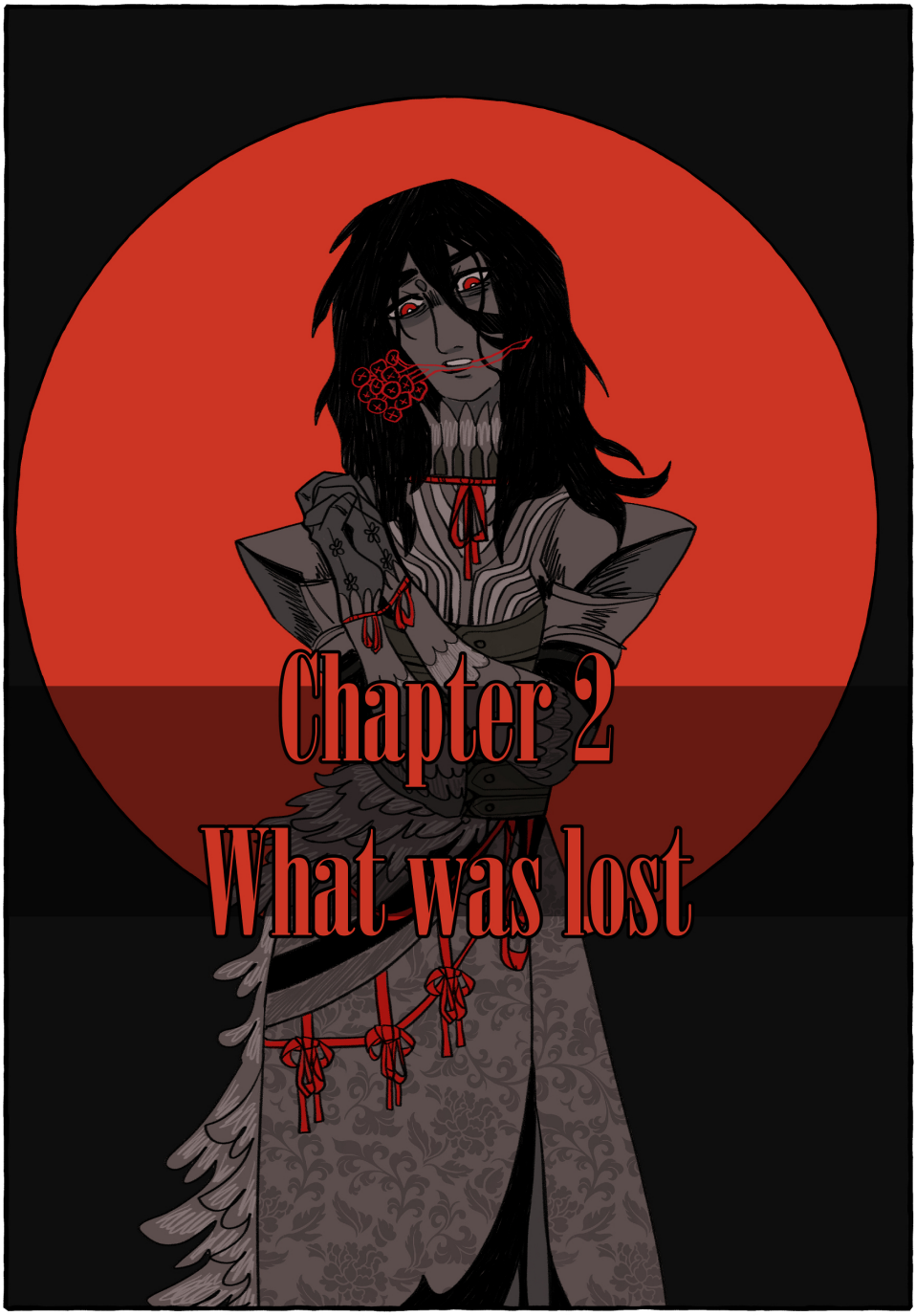
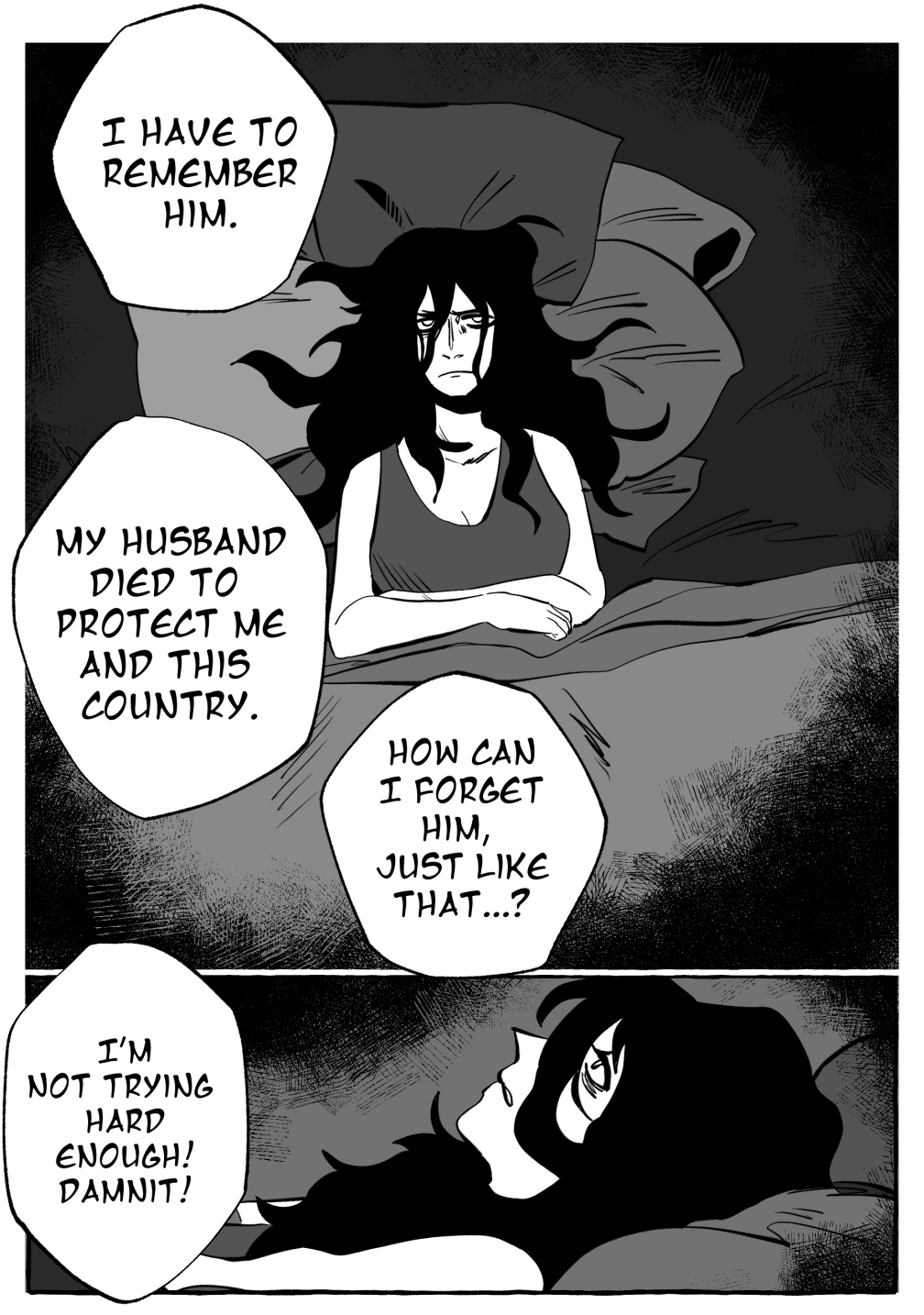
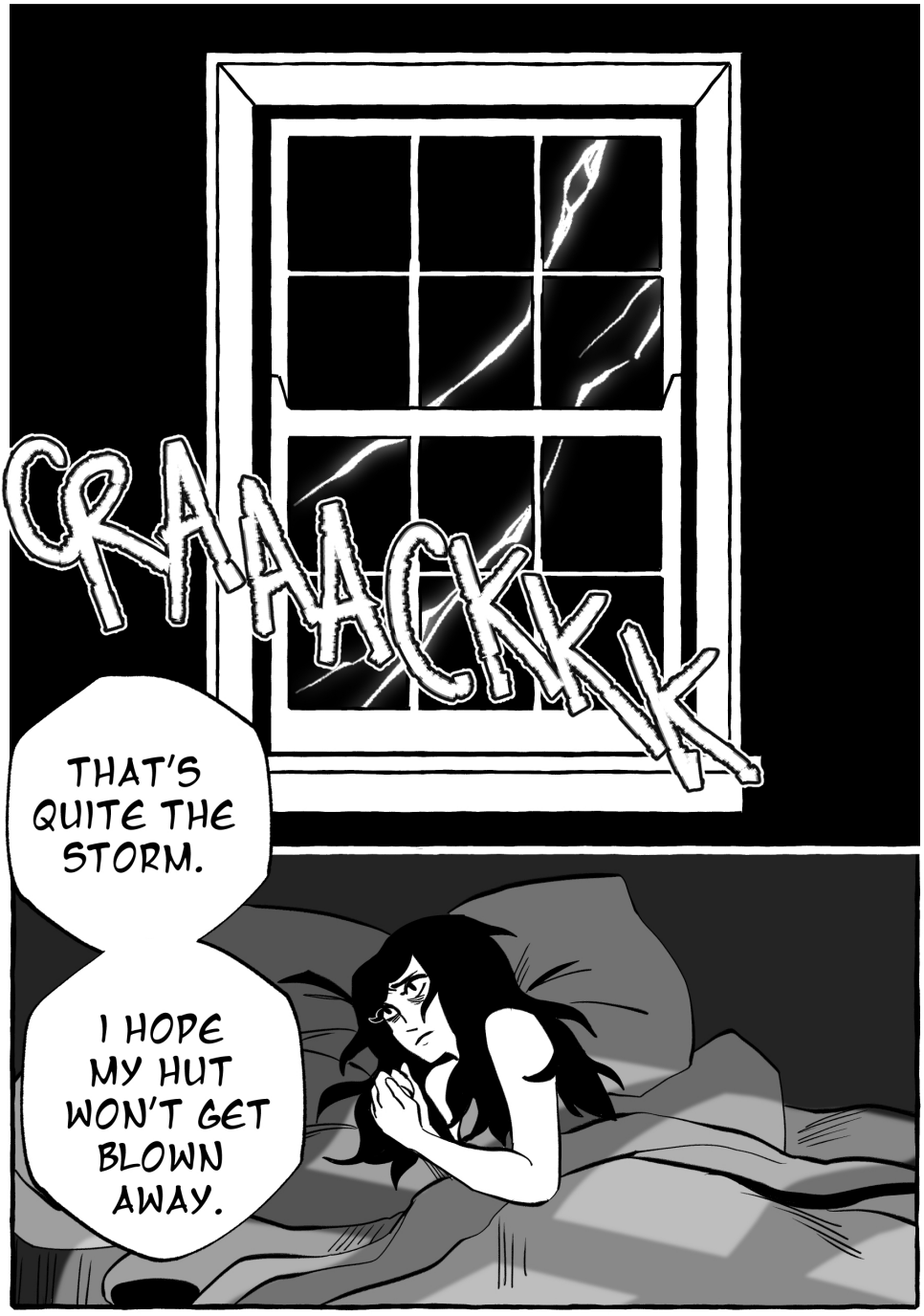
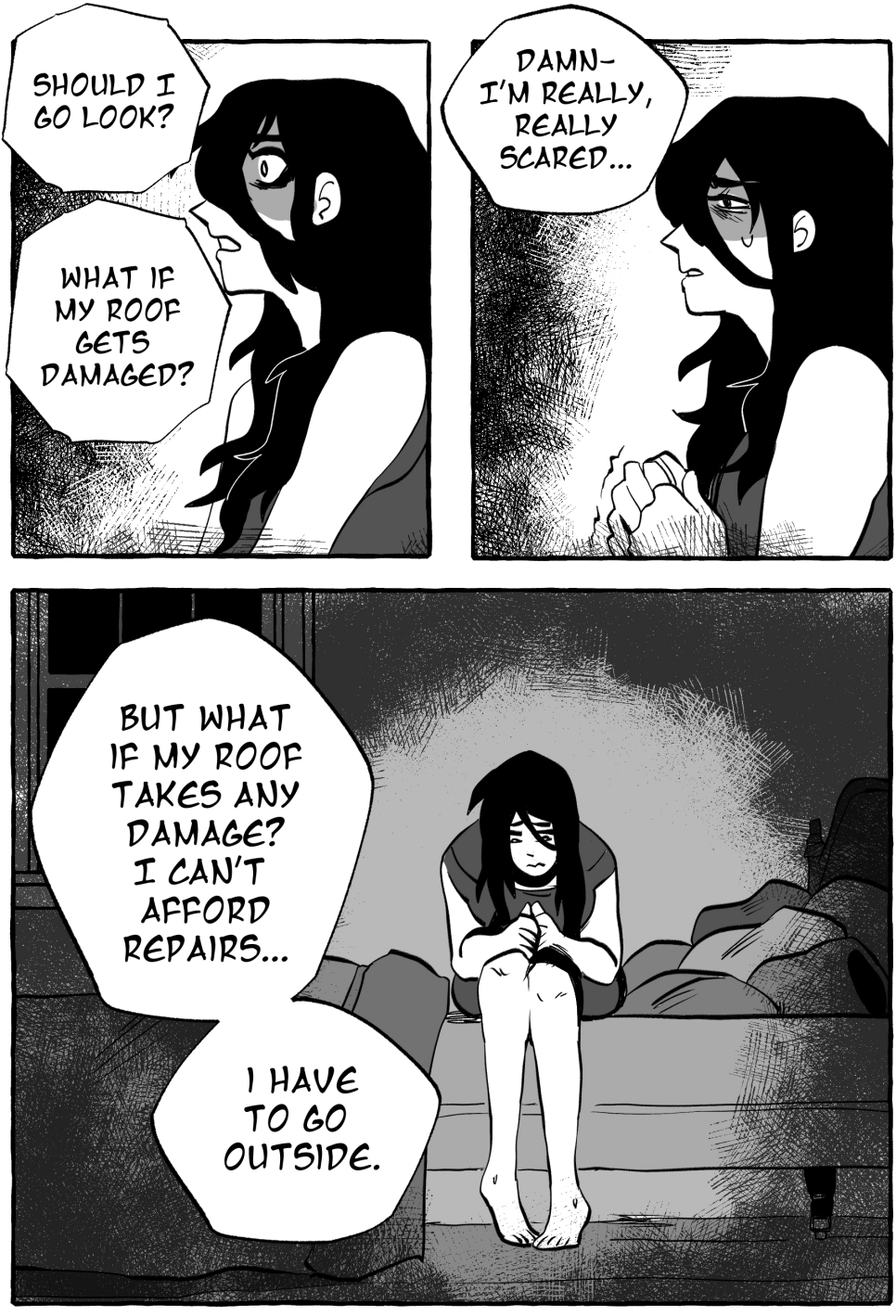

Chapter 2
What was lost


I HAVE TO REMEMBER HIM.
MY HUSBAND DIED TO PROTECT ME AND THIS COUNTRY.
HOW CAN I FORGET HIM, JUST LIKE THAT...?
I'M NOT TRYING HARD ENOUGH! DAMNIT!

SEAN?
SETH
STEPHEN?
SAWYER?
SHANE...
SAGE-?
... IT'S NO USE. I CAN'T REMEMBER.


CRAAACKKK
THAT'S QUITE THE STORM.
I HOPE MY HUT WON'T GET BLOWN AWAY.

KINDA SCARY...
THUMP
HUH?!
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THERE IS SOMETHING ON THE ROOF!
IS IT AN ANIMAL PERHAPS?
OR A BRANCH THAT GOT BLOWN OFF A TREE?


SHOULD I GO LOOK?
WHAT IF MY ROOF GETS DAMAGED?
DAMN- I'M REALLY, REALLY SCARED...
BUT WHAT IF MY ROOF TAKES ANY DAMAGE? I CAN'T AFFORD REPAIRS...
I HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE.

THIS IS SO SCARY!
COME ON, DON'T BE A WIMP, AVA!

LET'S JUST HOPE THERE AREN'T ANY BEARS AROUND...

HRRRRRRR
BADUMP
BADUMP

THERE IS SOMETHING
BEHIND ME...!!
HHHAAAAAAHHH
IT'S RIGHT
BEHIND ME

KYAAAA!!

!!!

FSHHH

UHM-
H-HELLO!
YOU'RE-?
YOU ARE
BERSERKIR,
RIGHT?
CORRECT.
I SHOULD BE
AS POLITE
AS POSSIBLE...
MY NAME
IS AVA.
NICE TO
MEET YOU,
BERSERKIR.

YOU GAVE ME QUITE THE SCARE, YOU KNOW...
MY APOLOGIES. I DIDN'T MEAN TO FRIGHTEN YOU.

UHM-
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?
TEA?
YEAH.
HM. SOUNDS DELIGHTFUL.

YOU'LL HAVE TO DUCK, THOUGH, OR YOUR ANTLERS WILL SCRATCH MY CEILING.

FFWOSHH
THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM.
!!
HSSSHHHH
FSSHHHH

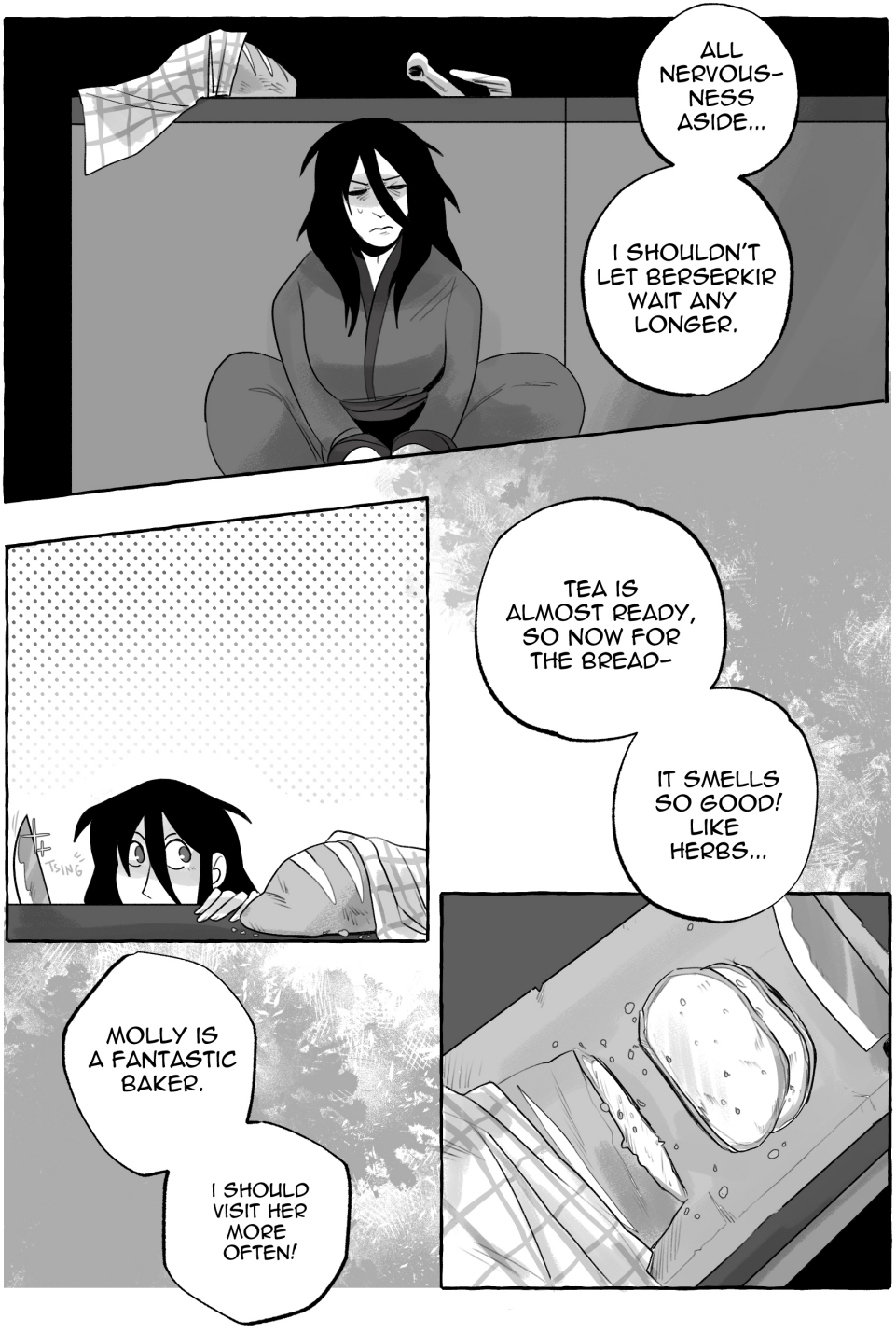
FSHHHH-
THIS WILL SUFFICE.
?!
AAA-??!
PLEASE, COME IN.
WATCH YOUR STEP.

UHH, DO YOU LIKE BLACK TEA?
WELL,I DO PREFER HERBAL TEA-
BLACK TEA IS FINE THOUGH.
O-OKAY.
SOUNDS VERY GOOD, I'LL TAKE SOME.
I DON'T HAVE ANY PASTRIES...
I CAN OFFER YOU SOME BREAD THOUGH.
MY FRIEND MOLLY MADE IT.

NOW THERE IS A GOD IN MY HOUSE.
I LET A STRANGER IN, JUST LIKE THAT-
WHY THE HELL DID I DO THAT...?
I'M NOT SCARED THOUGH.

HIS PRESENCE FEELS... WARM. AND FRIENDLY.
THAT'S A FEELING I COULD GET USED TO.
I HAVEN'T FELT WARM IN A LONG TIME...

MOTHER WOULD BE SO DISAPPOINTED IN ME...
SHE'D SCOLD ME FOR LETTING A STRANGER INTO MY HOUSE.
AND SHE'D BE RIGHT TO DO SO.

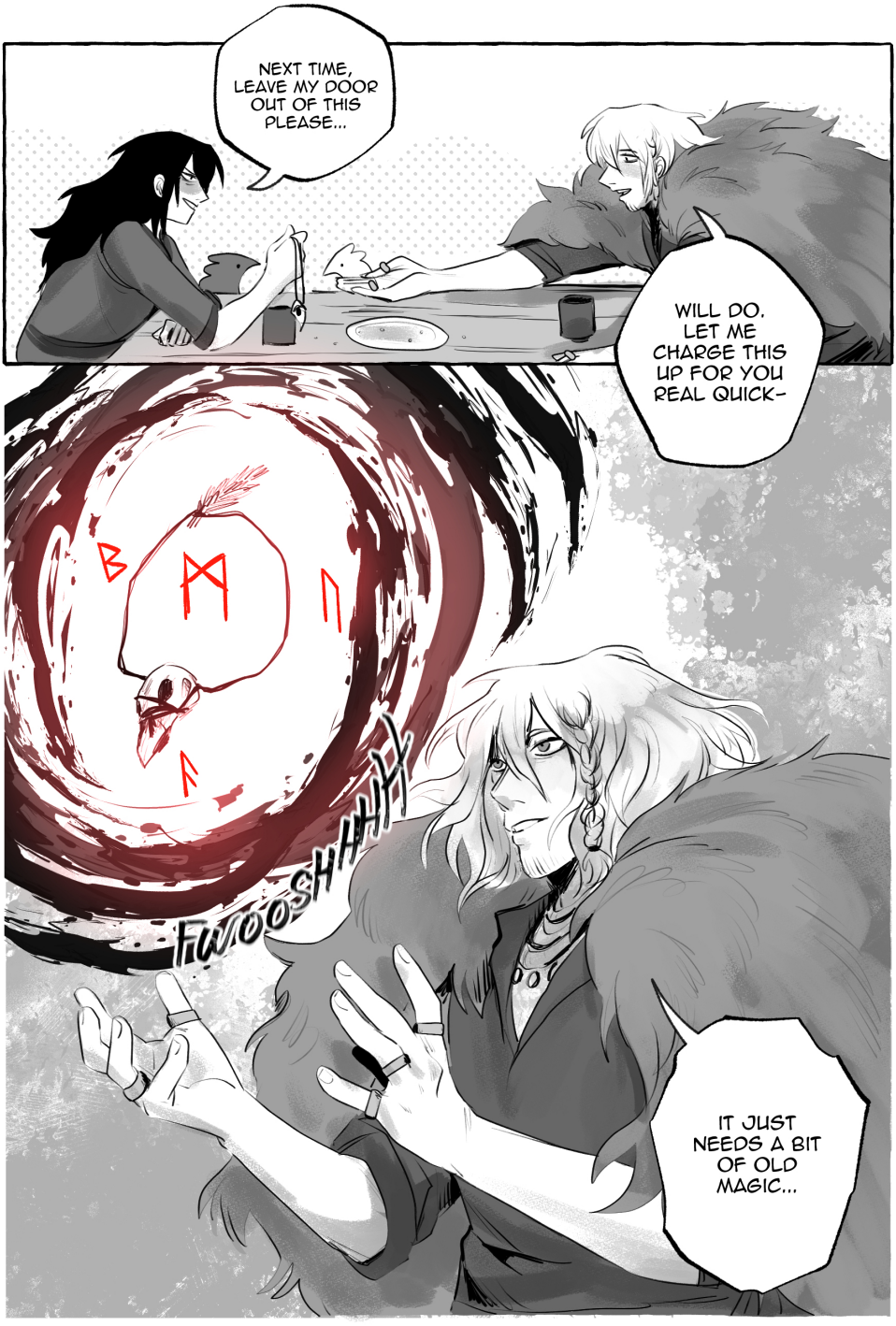

ALL NERVOUS-NESS ASIDE...
I SHOULDN'T LET BERSERKIR WAIT ANY LONGER.
TSING
TEA IS ALMOST READY, SO NOW FOR THE BREAD-
IT SMELLS SO GOOD! LIKE HERBS...
MOLLY IS A FANTASTIC BAKER.
I SHOULD VISIT HER MORE OFTEN!

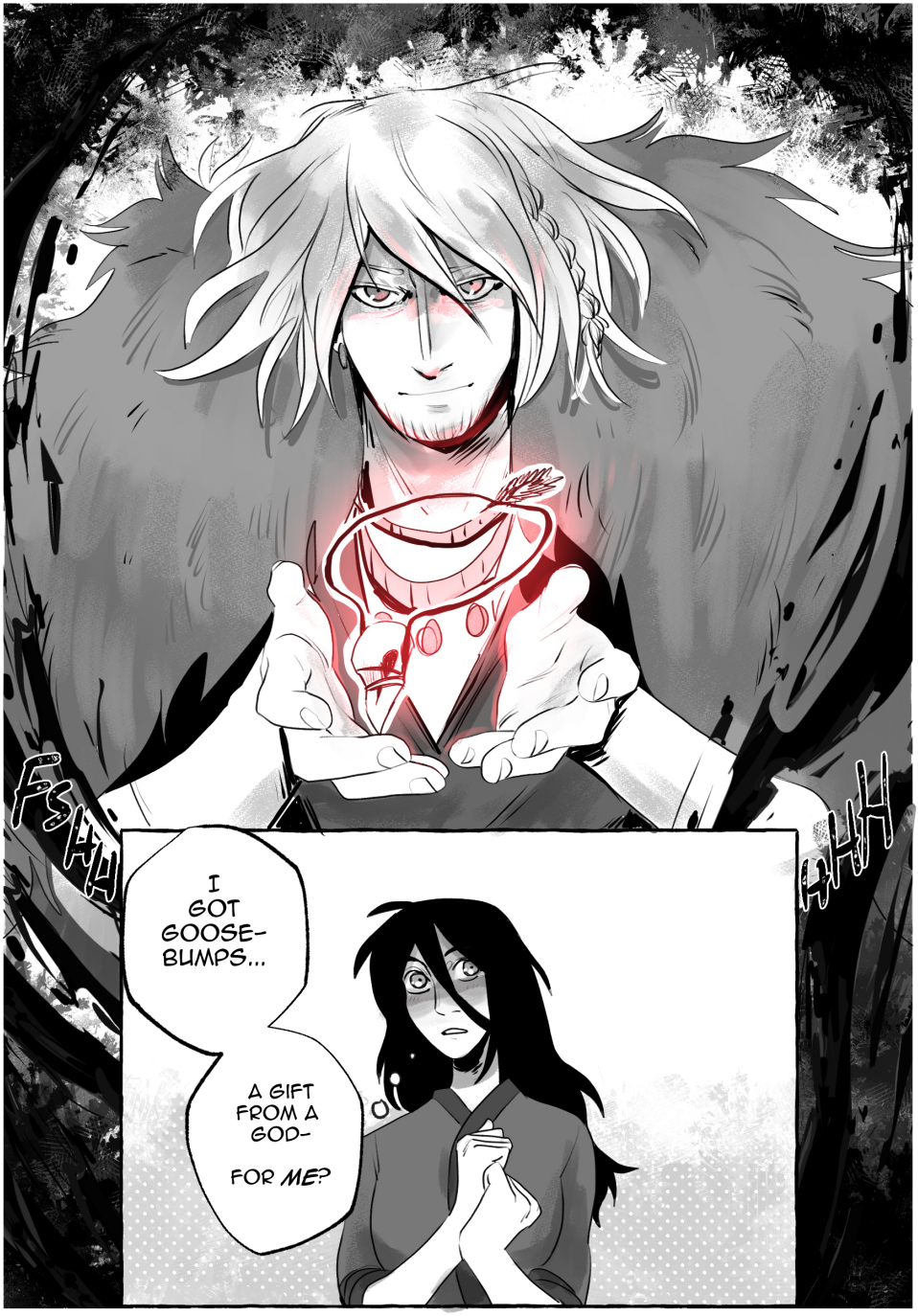
ALRIGHT, I HOPE YOU LIKE IT!
MOLLY'S BREAD IS SO GOOD, I REALLY-
HUH?!
Bok
Bok
bok
bok
Bok?
bok

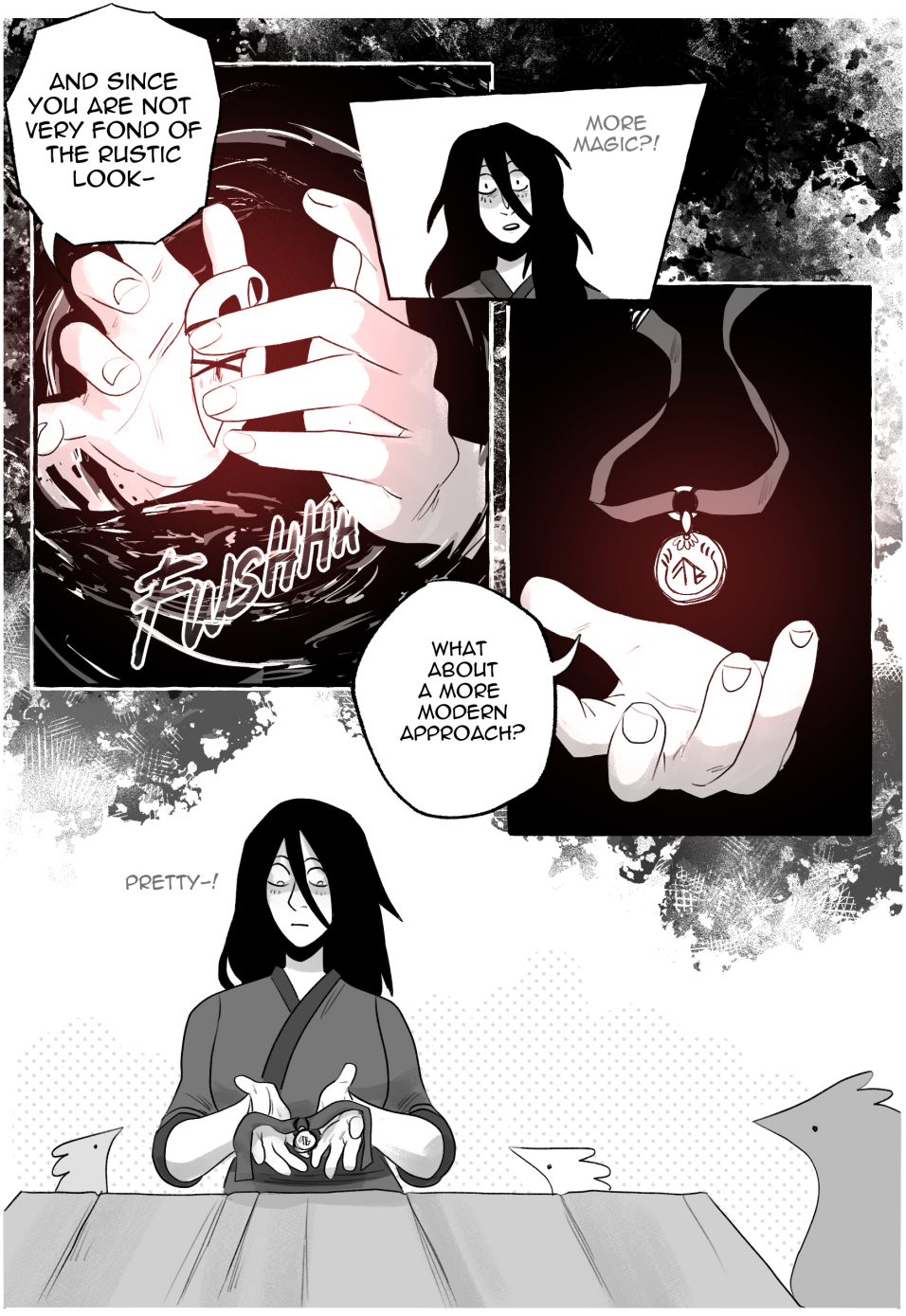
HEY, UHM-
WHY ARE THE CHICKENS IN *HERE* AND NOT IN THEIR LITTLE CHICKEN HUT...?
IT'S STORMY OUTSIDE.
YEAH, I NOTICED.
THEY SHOULD STAY INSIDE, IT'S SAFER THAT WAY.
WHAT THE...

I ENJOY THIS TEA, AVA.
THE BREAD SEEMS TO BE REALLY GOOD, TOO.
YOUR FRIEND IS A GREAT BAKER, WHICH THE LITTLE ONES HERE ALSO AGREE ON.
Bok
Bok
Bok
bok
bok
GLAD YOU LIKE IT.
THIS IS PROBABLY THE STRANGEST NIGHT OF MY LIFE...
THEY REALLY LIKE YOU, BY THE WAY.
WHO, THE CHICKENS?
INDEED. THEY TOLD ME THAT THEY ENJOY YOUR COMPANY VER MUCH.

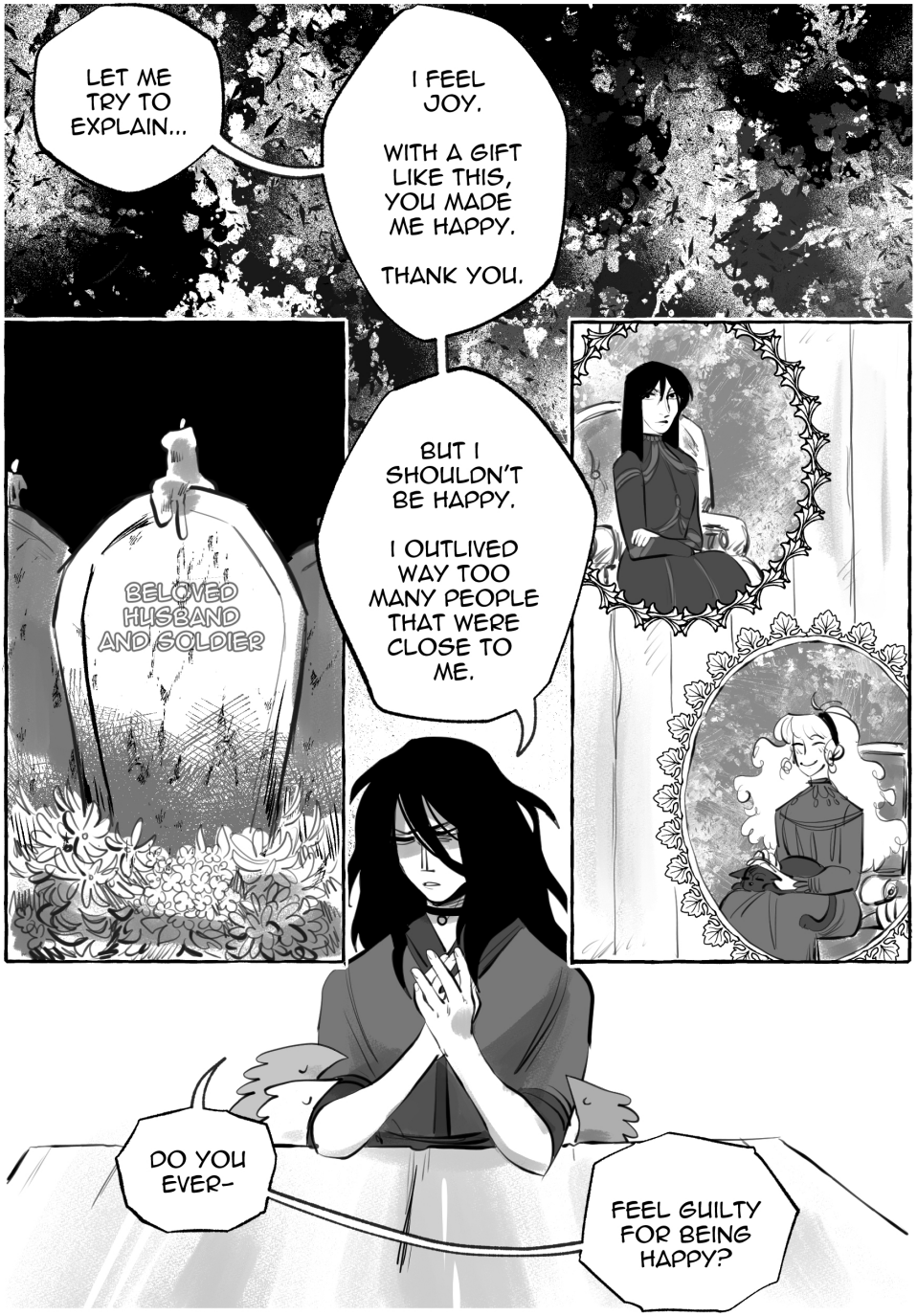
UHM, BERSERKIR, NOT TO BE RUDE-
BUT I WAS WONDERING...
YES?
IS THIS YOURS?
AND DID *YOU* TRASH MY DOOR?!
AH, YES! A GIFT, FOR PROTECTION AND HEALTH.
CLAP!

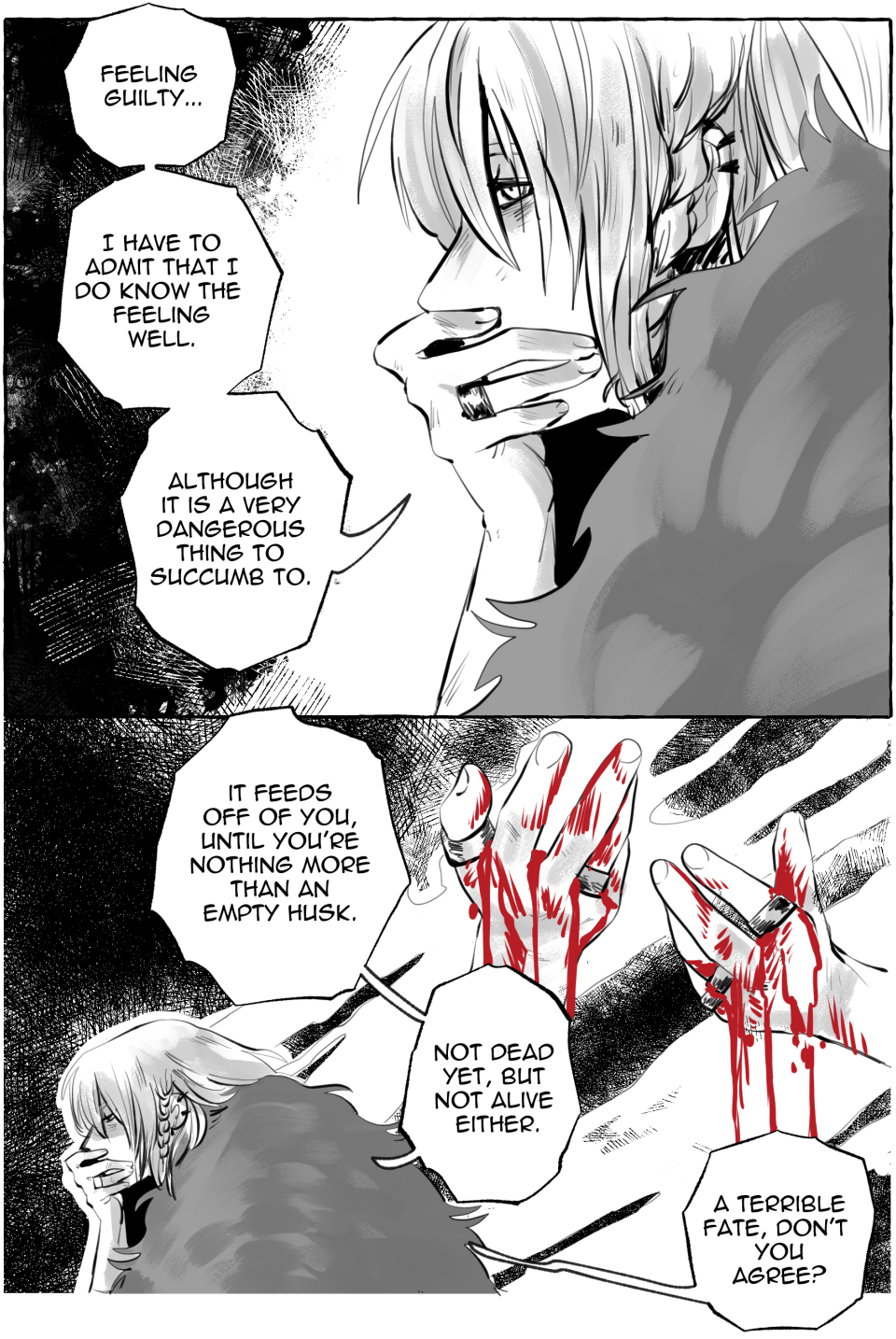

NEXT TIME, LEAVE MY DOOR OUT OF THIS PLEASE...
WILL DO. LET ME CHARGE THIS UP FOR YOU REAL QUICK-
FWOOSHHH
IT JUST NEEDS A BIT OF OLD MAGIC...


FSHH
HHH
I GOT GOOSE-BUMPS...
A GIFT FROM A GOD-
FOR ME?


AND SINCE YOU ARE NOT VERY FOND OF THE RUSTIC LOOK-
MORE MAGIC?!
FWISHH
WHAT ABOUT A MORE MODERN APPROACH?
PRETTY-!

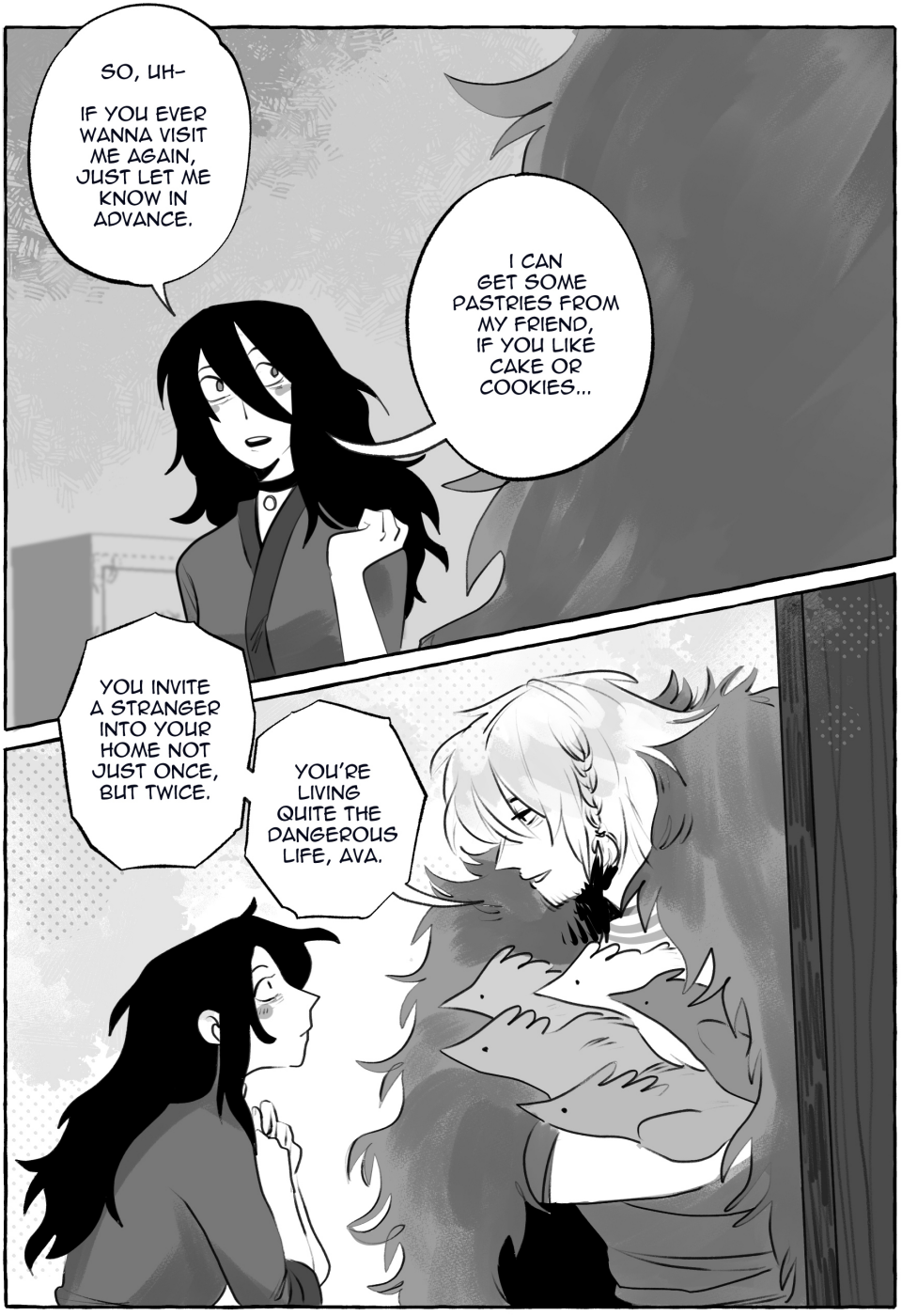
SIGH...
YOU... DON'T LIKE IT?
AH, DAMN-!
NO, THAT'S NOT IT!
ARGHH, I'M SORRY-
SORRY-

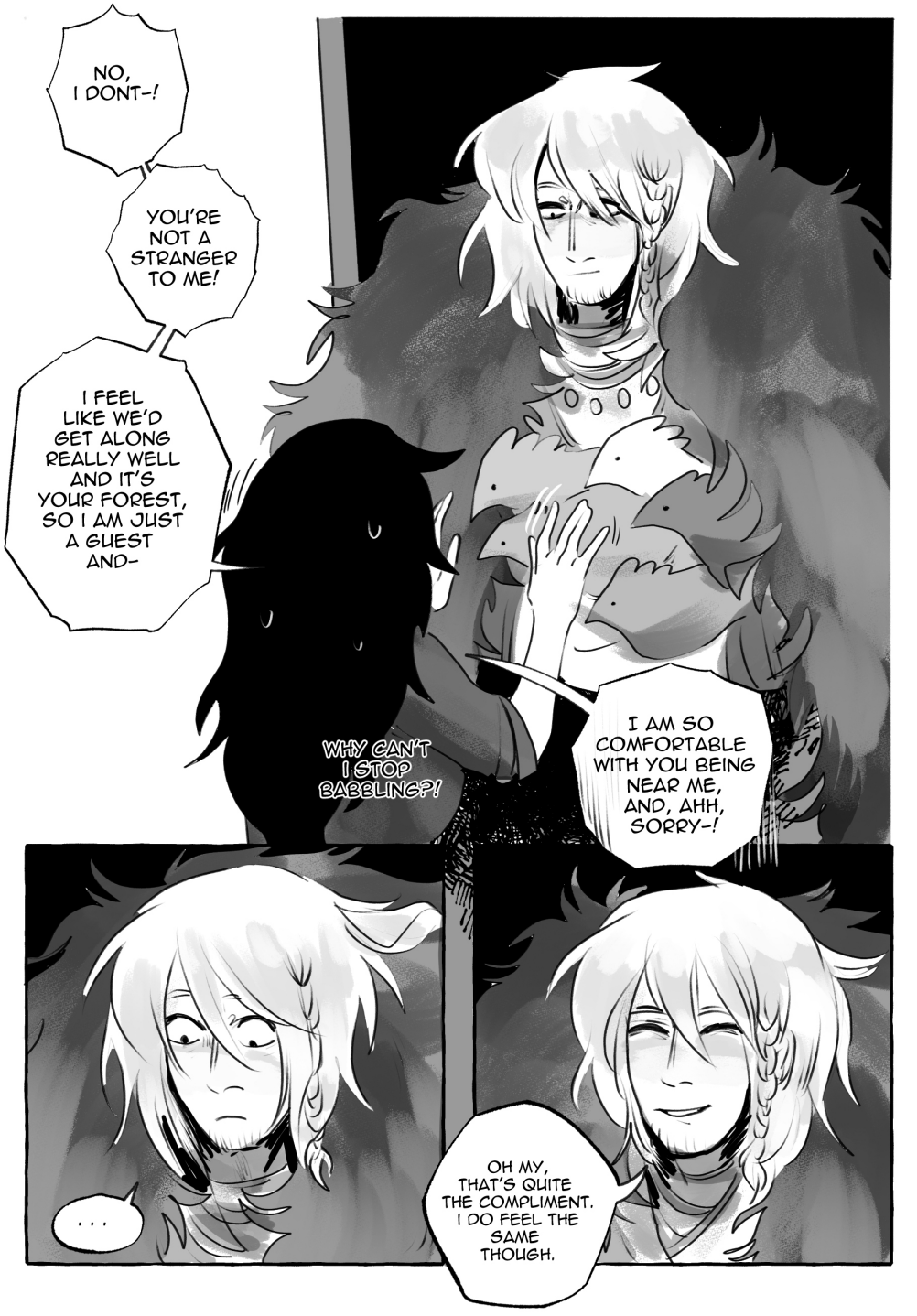

LET ME TRY TO EXPLAIN...
I FEEL JOY.
WITH A GIFT LIKE THIS, YOU MADE ME HAPPY.
THANK YOU.
BUT I SHOULDN'T BE HAPPY.
I OUTLIVED WAY TOO MANY PEOPLE THAT WERE CLOSE TO ME.
BELOVED HUSBAND AND SOLDIER
DO YOU EVER-
FEEL GUILTY FOR BEING HAPPY?


FEELING GUILTY...
I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I DO KNOW THE FEELING WELL.
ALTHOUGH IT IS A VERY DANGEROUS THING TO SUCCUMB TO.
IT FEEDS OFF OF YOU, UNTIL YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN AN EMPTY HUSK.
NOT DEAD YET, BUT NOT ALIVE EITHER.
A TERRIBLE FATE, DON'T YOU AGREE?

A TERRIBLE FATE...
FOR TERRIBLE DEEDS.

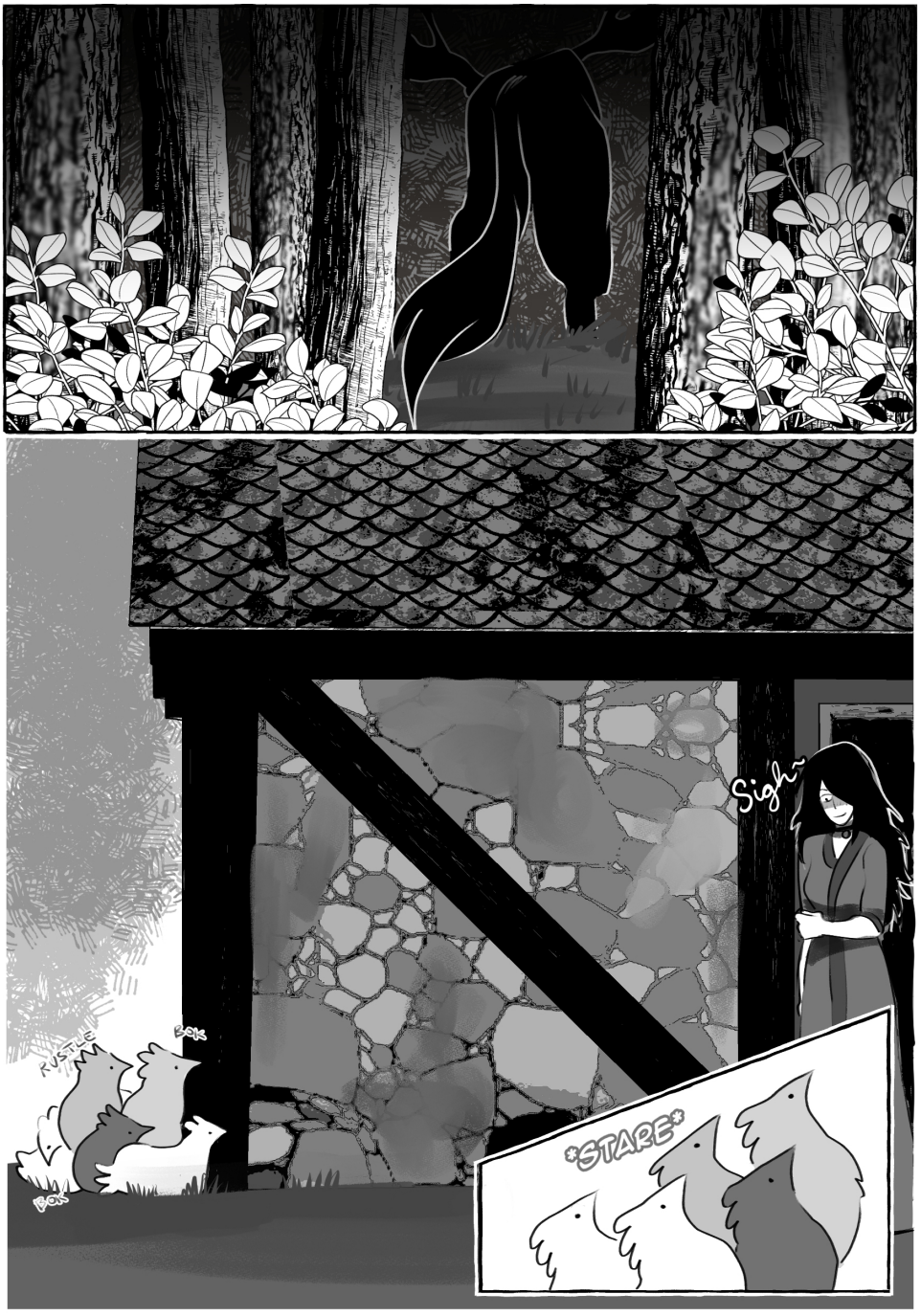
OH DEAR, THIS GOT KINDA DARK REAL QUICK...
MY APOLOGIES.
WELL, YOU CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO TURN THE MOOD AROUND QUICKLY.
FSH
I BETTER GET GOING THOUGH.
AHH, SO SOON?
I ENJOYED OUR TIME TOGETHER AS WELL.
THE CHICKEN, IF YOU MAY
BUT I'M AFRAID MY DUTIES ARE MANY.


SO, UH-
IF YOU EVER WANNA VISIT ME AGAIN, JUST LET ME KNOW IN ADVANCE.
I CAN GET SOME PASTRIES FROM MY FRIEND, IF YOU LIKE CAKE OR COOKIES...
YOU INVITE A STRANGER INTO YOUR HOME NOT JUST ONCE, BUT TWICE.
YOU'RE LIVING QUITE THE DANGEROUS LIFE, AVA.


NO, I DONT-!
YOU'RE NOT A STRANGER TO ME!
I FEEL LIKE WE'D GET ALONG REALLY WELL AND IT'S YOUR FOREST, SO I AM JUST A GUEST AND-
WHY CAN'T I STOP BABBLING?!
I AM SO COMFORTABLE WITH YOU BEING NEAR ME, AND, AHH, SORRY-!
. . .
OH MY, THAT'S QUITE THE COMPLIMENT. I DO FEEL THE SAME THOUGH.

THANK YOU FOR THE HOSPITALITY.
I WILL.
MY PLEASURE.
WILL YOU VISIT ME AGAIN SOON?

STILL, YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL.
NOT ALL RESIDENTS OF THIS FOREST ARE KIND.
AND I CAN'T BE AROUND ALL THE TIME, I'M AFRAID.


Sigh~
*STARE*
RUSTLE
BAK
BAK

AND YOU GUYS-
I WILL NOT SPOIL YOU LIKE HE DID!
YOU CAN'T SLEEP IN MY BED!
THE STORM IS OVER.
YOU HAVE A PERFECT LITTLE CHICKEN HUT RIGHT THERE.
NOW GO BACK TO BED.

FINALLY, I CAN GO TO SLEEP!
I'M SO DAMN EXHAUSTED!
SHOO, GO TO BED.
SWEET DREAMS
I'LL DO THE SAME.
TURN
THIS NIGHT WAS WAY TOO EXCITING FOR MY TASTE...
WELL, MAYBE NOT TOO EXCITING.
I DID HAVE FUN...

AND NOW, KNOWING THAT BERSERKIR PROTECTS ME...
I WILL SLEEP WITHOUT ANY NIGHT-MARES...